

## WELFARE WORK AT CHICKAMAUGA COVERS EVERYTHING ARMY OMITTS

Y. M. C. A., K. C. and Jewish Welfare Board Provide Comforts  
Both Spiritual and Physical—Fourteen "Y" Buildings, Three  
K. C. Centers and One J. W. B. Building Erected at  
Chickamauga Park—Outline of Personnel  
and Organization.

(By Chester Loop.)  
"What branch of the service wears that uniform?" I asked my friend, Private Knowe, as a young fellow in a gray flannel shirt, with a red and black insignia on the left breast, and forest green breeches, with campaign hat and leather leggings, passed.  
"Why, that's a 'Y' man," he replied, "army Y. M. C. A. secretary, in plain English. There are about eighty-five of them here in Chickamauga park, running fourteen buildings and five outpost stations."

"Forty-four buildings?" I exclaimed, "what kind of buildings do you mean? And what do you mean by 'outpost stations'?"  
"It's a long story, but I'll try to give you an idea of what the 'Y' is, what it does and all about it, if you care to know."

"Inasmuch as I am donating to their work every year, I am very anxious to hear all about it. So, go ahead, and take all the time you need."

I had been wandering around Chickamauga park endeavoring to get an idea of what the army is doing out there, and had found Private Knowe apparently enjoying a few hours off duty walking around likewise, so we had struck up an acquaintance and continued our walk together.  
"Well, to begin with, the Y. M. C. A. came to Chickamauga park in the middle of May, 1917, in the persons of Roy John, Dr. O. E. Brown, Dr. A. S. Keim, J. A. Morrow, A. M. Jarman and T. D. Harmon. These six men began the work at Chickamauga, and called 'Y 23', the building at the reserve officers' training camp. Roy John was general secretary of the camp, and is now in charge of a Y. M. C. A. division somewhere in France; Dr. Brown was religious work director of Y 23, and later camp religious work director, and was made camp general secretary in December, 1917, which position he now holds. He was formerly professor of church history at Vanderbilt university for twenty-five years; chairman of the board of directors of the Vanderbilt Y. M. C. A., chairman of the state committee of Y. M. C. A. in the state of Tennessee, and is now a member of the national committee of the national war work council, and a member of the personnel committee of the southeastern department of the national war work council. Previous to entering the teaching field, he was for two years in China, in the service of the mission board of the Methodist Episcopal church, south. For some time he has spent his vacations teaching and lecturing to students at the summer Y. M. C. A. schools at Blue Ridge, Silver Bay and Lake Geneva. Dr. Keim is now engaged in city Y. M. C. A. work in the states; Mr. Morrow is in France with the Y. M. C. A. military service, and Mr. Harmon is in France with the Y. M. C. A."

"How many buildings do you say are here now?" I asked.  
"Fourteen buildings, with outpost stations at the General Hospital, Ca-

toosa target range, recruit depot, Camp Greenleaf annex and the detention camp. Wherever enough men are gathered together to make it desirable, a Y. M. C. A. building or tent is opened. Every man in this park has his own 'Y'."

"But the eighty-five men, what do they do?" I asked.

"In every building there is a building secretary in charge of the building, a religious work secretary, who looks after the personal needs of the men, organizes and conducts Bible classes and religious services generally; an educational secretary, who is charged with the organization and superintendence of classes in English, mathematics, history and kindred subjects; a physical director, who is responsible for the physical activities of the men, working in co-operation with the military authorities; a social secretary, who gets up entertainments, leads singing, obtains outside talent for the amusement and recreation of the men, and a business secretary, who is responsible for the finances of the building. In some cases, where possible, one man may hold two or more of these positions, but in the large buildings, where many men are served, there is a man for each department of the work. Then at headquarters, there is a camp business secretary, a camp religious director, a camp educational director, a camp physical director, a camp social secretary, a camp French director, and a French instructor."

"What are the names of these men at the head of the work in this park?"

**Personnel of "Y" Leaders.**

"I have already told you about Dr. Brown, who is the head of it all. Dr. E. N. Orr, a Methodist minister of Denver, Colo., is camp religious director; Dr. A. L. Roehm, dean of Wisconsin State Normal school, and an expert linguist, is educational director; B. E. Mitchell, of the faculty of Millsaps college, Jackson, Miss., is social director; Dr. T. P. Ballou, for years with the Y. M. C. A. in different parts of the country, and formerly of the United States navy, and French army in Algiers, is camp physical director; W. R. Milford, a prominent live stock man of Greenville, S. C., is business secretary; Dr. C. D. Zdanowicz, assistant professor of romance languages, University of Wisconsin, is camp French director, and is assisted by Y. A. Neal, teacher of French and Spanish in the Atlanta High schools. O. W. Stapleton, formerly evangelistic singer with Arthur Moore, is camp song leader."

His obvious knowledge of his subject, together with his interest had aroused my enthusiasm, and I suggested that if he had time, I would like to have him show me one of the buildings and go into the details of the work, to which he readily assented.

way to the "desk," which consists of a counter about the same width as those in every goods store and extending most of the way across the building. The interior of the building is fitted up with a stage at one end, about twenty feet square, with doors at each side leading to dressing rooms. The hall itself is, for good part of its length, filled with benches, stretching across it. Along the sides are writing benches with seats, affording writing room for upward of 200 men at a sitting. At the other end from the stage is the desk, to one side of which are shelves of books built into the walls. At one end of the desk is a cagelike booth, in which express money orders are written. At the other end of the desk is the telephone booth.

As we approached the desk, the secretary on duty was engaged in selling a book of stamps to a soldier who had in his hand two letters which he had undoubtedly just written. I at once became inquisitive.

"Where do you get the paper and envelopes that I see marked with the Y. M. C. A. symbol?" I asked the secretary, after he had spoken to my companion and I had been introduced.  
"You probably paid for some of it," he answered. "The patriotic people of the country who are, for one reason or another, unable to bear arms, furnish the money to pay for everything in these buildings. We are simply their agents in getting the value of their money to the soldiers in a shape which they require."

"Do the soldiers, as a rule, take advantage of this service donated them by the folks at home?" I asked.

"You can draw your own conclusions as to that after I have given you some figures which I happen to be familiar with, I believe. In the small buildings there are practically 1,000 pieces of mail handled per day, while in the larger ones, with a larger clientele, the number runs sometimes as high as 3,000 per day. The average in this camp last month for the fourteen buildings was 12,000 pieces of mail per day approximately. If you take two sheets as the average letter, you can see that it means a daily consumption of nearly 25,000 sheets of paper, and this is only one camp; it will probably run twice that much in the larger camps."

**Sell Stamps and Money Orders.**

"How about stamps? Are these buildings branch postoffices?" I was getting still deeper.

"No, we are not branch postoffices, but each building is allowed a stamp fund in cash, the amount depending upon the daily sales. We purchase stamps from the postoffice at Civic Center, and sell them to the soldiers here in the buildings. Our stamp sales around pay-day run as high as \$200 in some of the buildings."

"And how is this mail handled?"

"The mail is delivered once daily and collected once daily by a Y. M. C. A. truck, and in some of the buildings there is a second collection. We also handle parcel post matter, register first-class mail and insure parcels. For the accommodation of the men who have just arrived and have no definite address we have pigeon holes and mail is delivered in care of the building for those men desiring the service."

"Do you run a money order business as well?"

"We sell express money orders as a branch office of the Lytle, Ga. office, but there is no arrangement for the sale of postoffice orders."

"Do you mean to say that you furnish complete facilities for sending money home for these men when they are paid?"

"Yes, sir; a man can come to this building after drawing his

pay, write a letter, buy a money order, buy his stamps and register his letter without leaving the building."

"I should consider that a very valuable service," I remarked with feeling. "And so do the men," replied the secretary. "We have often had men tell us that much of their money which would otherwise be gambled away is saved to them by this extremely simple way of getting it out of their possession. We strain a point and sell money orders on Sunday when requested, simply as a help for the man with a weakness for gambling."

Behind the desk I had noticed, while talking several shelves covered with magazines and periodicals, in various stages of wear. "Are these magazines also donated by the people at home?" I asked.

"Yes; both directly and indirectly," he answered. "Many Chattanooga people save their magazines after reading them and bring them to us. In addition to this we have a magazine fund, appropriated from the general fund for each camp, and out of this fund are paid subscriptions to magazines of all kinds. Here we have the Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Leslie's, American Magazine, Harper's Magazine, Army and Navy Journal, Army and Navy Magazine, Review of Reviews, Metropolitan, The Cosmopolitan, Popular Mechanics, Blue Book, Everybody's, Scribner's, Life, Literary Digest, and many others for which there is any demand."

"And the paper I see there, Trench and Camp," I asked, pointing to a pile of apparently freshly printed newspapers. "Is that the Y. M. C. A. organ?"

"Trench and Camp is a weekly paper published in the camps under the auspices of the Army Y. M. C. A. of the National War Work Council. It is not a Y. M. C. A. organ in any sense; the camp editor, J. Blanding Hamlin, is a former newspaper man of Greenwood, Miss., and is in the army Y. M. C. A. service, but the paper is a soldier's paper absolutely and is printed here by the Chattanooga morning paper at a charge which covers the cost of the paper used only, the services and equipment are donated by the newspaper owners. Part of the matter is made up and sent out to all the camps weekly from the New York office, but the rest of the paper is made up of articles written by the soldiers, or about them, and about events occurring in the camp. The subject matter is censored by the military authorities before publication. There are about 10,000 copies of the paper distributed free in this camp every week. Several thousand copies of the paper go to the soldiers' homes each week, after having been read by the men."

"And the books," I inquired, reading the titles of several late novels and books about the war on the shelves near the desk.

"The American Library association has designated every Y. M. C. A. building a branch library of its main building at Civic Center," he said. "Our educational secretary, or the secretary who may be designated in charge of the library, goes to the central library once a week and picks out new books for the building. These books are delivered by the library truck, and any other books which are not popular in the building are returned to the library for use elsewhere. We have an average circulation of about 700 books per month in this building alone. We keep on hand books of every description—novels, war novels, technical books, military text books, and books on religious subjects, as well as reference books for the branches of service represented in the clientele of the building. In all the buildings of the camp there is an average circulation of 5,500

books of all kinds per month."

"You are the business secretary, I presume," I said. "And you attend to the desk?"

"No, I am the educational secretary. Each of the secretaries has his allotted time on the desk. We are all supposed to do as much work on the desk as our other duties will permit. I will be relieved in a few minutes by the religious secretary," he explained.

"How is your work carried on—that is, the educational work?"

**Educational Work of Y. M. C. A.**

"As a rule, American illiterates and foreigners who are not able to plainly speak, read and write English, are detailed by their commanding officers for instruction. The men are detailed and examined and classified by the educational secretary and assigned to classes. The commanding officer then details teachers from the enlisted men of the organizations to take charge of the classes. In some instances, the Y. M. C. A. secretary actually teaches one or more classes himself, but the ideal condition is to have the actual teaching done by enlisted men, while the secretary exercises supervision and help where necessary. Last month there were 1,336 educational classes held in camp with a total attendance of 24,545. Once a week in each building there is an educational or patriotic lecture given for the men, and twice a week the educational secretary puts on a short talk, illustrated with slides, covering important happenings since the last talk. Last month there were sixty lectures with a total attendance of 23,595 in camp. We also teach other subjects such as mathematics, history, etc., where the demand is sufficient to justify it. There are also fourteen classes in French going in camp among the officers and men, with thirty-nine sessions weekly, with a total attendance of approximately 1,500 officers and men."

"At this juncture, the religious secretary came in and I was introduced. I at once began asking for more information.  
"How do you manage to do any religious work among soldiers?" I should imagine it would be very difficult to accomplish much in that line of work in a camp," I suggested.

**Gain Confidence by Religious Work.**

"Not so hard as one might imagine," he answered. "Every Y. M. C. A. secretary is supposed to do a certain amount of work along religious lines, in addition to his other duties. I light here at the desk we get acquainted with the men and learn the part of the country they are from, whether or not they belong to a church, and anything else they see fit to tell us. It is the desire of every secretary right from the start to show the men that he is interested in their well-being. The men, as a rule, after a short while get to know that we are ready and anxious at all times to do anything in the world to help them and come to us for advice or for discussion of their personal problems, and it is in that way that many a man has been brought to lead a Christian life. There is no attempt on the part of any one in this work to force any religion down a man's throat. A great deal of this personal work is done, and in addition thereto we have three religious services in the buildings each week—two on Sunday and one at night during the week. Attendance at these services is entirely voluntary, and care is taken that no man is enticed to a religious meeting under a false impression. The services are advertised as such, and all other activities in the building are stopped while the services are in progress. Last month the total attendance at religious services in this camp was 23,022. Then we have Bible classes every evening for thirty minutes for

any of the men who wish to drop in. Last month there were 230 of these classes, with an attendance of 3,255 for the month. We hold Sunday school every Sunday morning before services, and on Sunday evening the army league meets. This army league is made up of men who were members of their junior church organizations at home, and of any others who wish to attend. We distributed last month 1,336 New Testaments, pocket size, and recorded 537 Christian decisions in this camp."

At this juncture a soldier walked up and asked the secretary if he knew yet what was to be the title of the moving picture that evening. That started a new train of thought, and I asked if the moving picture were well attended by the soldiers.

"Last month there were thirty days and the total attendance at all the buildings was 43,309. There were eight moving pictures shown at each building during the month and the attendance at the moving pictures for the month was 53,900, or an average of about 630 each night, or, going further, an average attendance per show of about 700 men. The moving pictures are the most popular attractions in our buildings, closely followed by athletic games."

"What is done in the way of athletics by the 'Y'?" I asked.

**Military Games and Athletics.**

"The greatest work done by the physical directors is the mass athletics in the form of military games. The camp physical director has had many years' service in various military organizations, both in this country and others, and is especially well fitted for organizing and carrying out these programs. Many games have been devised for training the men in such a way as to add to their military efficiency directly, and in addition thereto baseball, volley ball, football, basketball and disciplinary physical drills are held. Of course, the physical directors must work in close conjunction with the military authorities, in the person of athletic officers of units, and in this camp the Y. M. C. A. physical director is a member of the athletic council of each military unit. Last month it is estimated that a total of 114,600 men were engaged in athletic work under the direction of the military athletic officers and Y. M. C. A. secretaries. These figures are, of course, based on a count of each man each time engaged during the month."

"Besides the moving pictures, what other forms of entertainment are provided for the men?" I inquired.

"The social secretary of the camp, in conjunction with the camp song leader, makes up programs for the different buildings each week. One night is set aside as entertainment night, and the performers are either Chattanooga people who offer their services, qualified enlisted men or officers, or attractions from other places. Last month there were 152 entertainments given in camp, at which there was a total attendance of 64,715. This also includes concerts given every Sunday afternoon by ladies from Chattanooga or other surrounding towns. On practically every Friday night there is a special entertainment given in the large auditorium at the end of the Oglethorpe car line."

**How Men Appreciate Service of "Y."**

"You say you think the men appreciate what is being done for them by the Y. M. C. A.?"

"Their appreciation is shown by their own words. Almost daily men come to the desk and show parts of their letters in which they are praising the Y. M. C. A. to the folks at home. Of course, nothing of this kind is ever solicited, and anything said by the officers or men in regard to our work is perfectly spontaneous. One man at Catoosa target range said that the

men out there would not know what to do without the 'Y'. He said, in effect, 'There is nowhere to go but to the 'Y'; there is nothing to read except what is furnished by the 'Y', and nothing to listen to but the music at the 'Y'.' It furnishes everything necessary out here but food. Even when the water supply failed, the 'Y' men somehow or other got tubs of ice water for the boys to drink."

"On a hot, dusty hike one day, one soldier said to another, 'Do you reckon hell will be much worse than this?' 'Maybe so,' was the reply, 'but even if it is, the 'Y' will make it comfortable at night, anyhow.'"

"A rough, bullying sort of fellow took one of the secretaries' breath away one day when he came to him and said: 'I guess you fellows think I'm a pretty bad nut. Well, I guess I am, but you fellows have treated us fine, and I've decided to cut out the cursing, and try to help.' And he did finally succeed in helping."

"Of course, I could tell you of dozens and scores of remarks made by the men along these lines, but I simply give you those above as examples. "The commanding officer of one of the machine gun battalions of the sixth division at Camp Forrest wrote, 'The organization which I command is composed of many foreigners. Through the Y. M. C. A.'s painstaking efforts, many of these soldiers have learned to read and write. They also conduct schools in typewriting and other schools which seek to better the condition and education of these men. When the drill schedule has been completed and work over, they furnish the much needed wholesome amusements.'"

"\* \* \* Its secretaries are faithful, efficient and most courteous and I consider that this is an organization which is looked upon almost as an arm of the service."

**How the Red Cross Helps.**

"What connection is there between the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A.?" I asked.

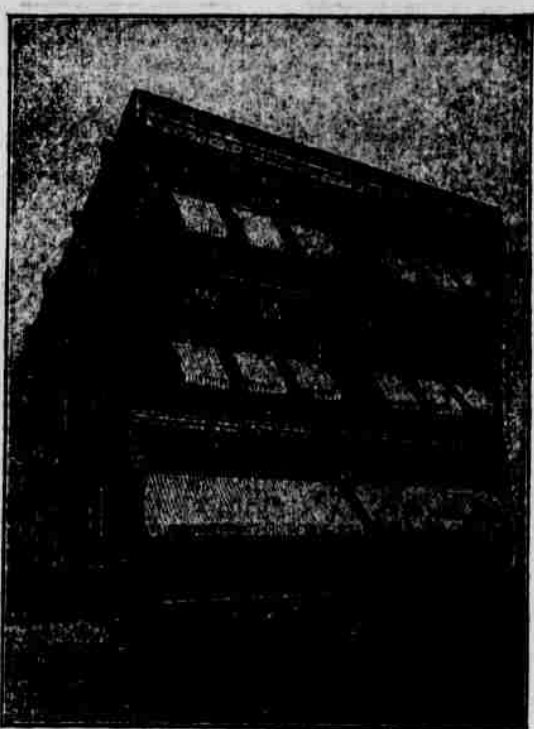
"Practically none," he answered, "except that we co-operate in every case in which we can. The Red Cross in the camps works in conjunction with the representatives in the cantonment cities, and it also has representatives in all the large cities, who work with the field service in the camps. Out here the work is in charge of J. M. Graham, of Atlanta, who has the title of field director. Mr. Graham was formerly of the faculty of the Atlanta Theological seminary, and is a sociology expert. He entered the Red Cross service at Camp Jackson as assistant field director May 1, 1918, and was transferred to Oglethorpe as field director on June 1. He now has with him as assistant field directors Dr. M. H. Dewey, in charge of the home service, and E. P. Kingsbury, in charge of hospital service."

"The officer in charge of home service looks after the troubles of the soldiers back home, and, working in co-operation with the representatives in the cities, straightens out any of these troubles and leaves the soldier's mind free to be occupied by his work alone."

"The hospital service director attends to the letter writing for such men in hospital as are unable to write, and does any other necessary work to make life as easy and comfortable as possible for the sick."

"The force is expected to reach a total of eleven by the middle of August, and their new convalescent house is now finished and ready for use. Plans are made and erection has started on a recreation house for the nurses, near the nurse quarters. A new administration building and officers' quarters will be built in the near future. All construction work is done under the

(Continued on Page Forty-Two.)



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